



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE LINCOLN TARIFF MYTH FINALLY DISPOSED OF

In two notes published in this Journal, one in August, 1914, entitled "Abraham Lincoln on the Tariff: A Myth," and the other in February, 1915, entitled "Lincoln and the Tariff: A Sequel," I presented the results of an inquiry on the origin of a phrase about the tariff ascribed to Lincoln.¹ The phrase appeared in various forms. The familiar one was this: "If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an American for twenty-five dollars, then America has the rails and the money both." My conclusion, after following up various clues, was that the phrase originated with Robert G. Ingersoll. Tho it did not appear in Ingersoll's published writings until after the date of first ascription to Lincoln, the evidence indicated that it had been used by Ingersoll in his orations and lyceum speeches in such a way as to lead reporters, quite without design on Ingersoll's part, to attribute it to Lincoln.

Complete confirmation of this surmise has recently come to me through the obliging inquiries of Mr. Edward F. O'Neil of New York. Endeavors of my own to secure information from members of Ingersoll's family had been fruitless. Mr. O'Neil, however, has communicated with Ingersoll's surviving sister-in-law, Mrs. C. P. Farrell of New York, and gets from her the unequivocal statement that Ingersoll used the steel rail story as early as 1880. She refers to a speech made in Brooklyn, New York, in October, 1880, and reported to the *New York Herald* of October 31 of that year. He used it also in an interview in the *Republican* of Denver, Colorado, on January 17, 1884, and once more in a speech at the Metropolitan Opera House on June 29, 1888. The evidence seems to be complete. Ingersoll was the author of the phrase, and used it frequently. Only by accidental collocation with Lincoln's name did it come to be ascribed to the great president.

¹ Reprinted in the volume of collected essays on Free Trade, The Tariff and Reciprocity (1920).